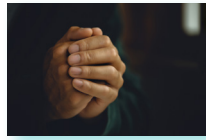


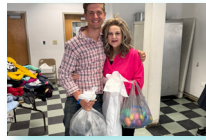
TIME IS RUNNING OUT—WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR HELP THIS EASTER!

We still need help to make our Easter Banquet for our homeless friends on Good Friday, April 3 a truly special event. If you haven't yet contributed, or if you can give again, please do so today. Here's how you can make a difference:



Prayer and Support

First and foremost, we ask for your prayers. Please pray that God would use this outreach to change the lives of our homeless friends. We're working hard to make this a special event for homeless and low-income kids and their families, and we need your help to bless them. Our goal is to help people have **Restored Hope and Restored Lives** from the love of Jesus, even as they navigate difficult life circumstances.



Preparation Help

We need volunteers to assist with meal preparation a day or two before the event. If you can help, please email us at J.Doud@OgdenRescue.org.

Our homeless friends will enjoy live music and a delicious hot meal, along with access to free clothing, job placement opportunities, housing referrals, and more. They can also learn about our New Life Program, which offers a way out of homelessness. Most importantly, they'll hear the life-changing message of why we celebrate Easter—Jesus' resurrection and the new life He offers.



Ways to Give

Your generosity can make this Easter outreach unforgettable. To donate, you can:

- Send a gift with credit card or check using the enclosed envelope
- Scan the QR code on this newsletter
- Call **801.746.1006** for secure giving by credit card
- Visit our website at OgdenRescueMission.org



Together, We Can Make a Difference

Easter is a time of renewal, and it's the perfect opportunity to help our hurting friends Rise, Renew, and Rejoice. With your support, we can provide hope and a pathway off the streets for homeless and low-income families.

Thank you for your continued generosity. Together, we're making a difference in the lives of those who need it most!



Your business or employer can partner with the Mission. Here's how:
Host a food or clothing drive • Volunteer • Sponsorships • Workplace giving
Get your company involved by emailing J.Doud@OgdenRescue.org



March/April 2025

OgdenRescueMission.org

RESTORED LIVES

The bimonthly newsletter of the Ogden Rescue Mission

For most of my life I considered myself an ordinary guy. I grew up in Northern Utah and have usually lived in the Ogden area. For 32 years I was married to a wonderful woman. We couldn't have children, but we loved each other deeply and built a good life together.

We weren't rich by any means, but we worked hard and were grateful for what we had. I worked manufacturing utility trailers, and together we were able to buy a mobile home. It wasn't fancy, but it was ours. Life felt stable, and we were happy. Then everything changed.

When the COVID pandemic came, my wife got sick. At first, we hoped she would recover, but her condition got worse. Eventually she passed away from the virus. Losing her after 32 years of marriage devastated me in a way I can hardly describe. She had been my partner, my best friend, and my family.

After she died, I didn't know how to move forward. The grief was overwhelming, and I sank into a deep depression. I stopped caring about things that used to matter. I kept going to work for a while, but my heart just wasn't in it anymore. I also didn't want to stay in the mobile home anymore because it reminded me so much of the life my wife and I had shared. Eventually I walked away from our home.

Before long, I found myself living on the streets of Ogden—even though I was still working. I would go to my job during the day and then figure out where I was going to sleep at night. It was a lonely and discouraging way to live. Not long before Christmas in 2024, I was laid off. Suddenly I had no work and nowhere to go. I felt I had reached the lowest point of my life.

That's when someone told me about the Ogden Rescue Mission. I didn't know what to expect, but I decided to give it a chance and entered the Mission's New Life Program. The program gave me structure and direction at a time when I desperately needed both. It also gave me hope, which is something I hadn't felt in a long time.

I started serving in the Mission's kitchen as part of my work therapy assignment. I worked with some great people there, and together we prepared meals for the men and women who came to the Mission for help. I know what it feels like to be



Vincent Vanleuven is working, has a place to stay and is enjoying a new relationship with God after finding help at the Ogden Rescue Mission.

EASTER TEACHES US THAT IF IT'S NOT GOOD, THEN IT'S NOT OVER

One of the songs I've been enjoying recently is "These Are the Days" by Christian artist Lauren Daigle. A line repeated throughout the song has stayed with me: "If it's not good, then it's not over."



It echoes the truth of Romans 8:28: "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."

Because God works all things together for good, His people can take heart. When life feels painful, confusing, or broken, God's people can trust that God is not finished.

It will not be over until He brings about His good purposes.

For myself, and I think most of us, we need this reminder often. We live in a sin-stained world marked by suffering (abuse, illness, job loss, broken relationships, and death). Jesus' earliest followers needed the same reminder when they watched Him die on the cross. In that moment, nothing about His death looked good. They could not yet see that Jesus was taking the punishment for sin upon Himself.

But it wasn't over.

When Jesus rose from the grave on the day we celebrate as Easter, He showed His followers that death is not the end. For God's people, death is a doorway to eternal life with Him. Death may feel final, but it is not the good ending God has promised. Just as Jesus was raised, all who trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins will be raised to eternal life in God's perfect Kingdom.

This is the hope our ministry points people toward. Many of our homeless friends come to us carrying deep wounds—abuse, tragic loss, addiction, shame, guilt, and years of feeling like life will never get better. Their stories, up to the moment they walk through our doors, often do not feel good.

But we share the same message Lauren Daigle sings: **If it's not good, it's not over.** There is new life available now, and eternal life to come, but only through a relationship with Jesus. We never promise the journey will be easy, in fact, it rarely is, but God can use all things for good.

This Easter, we invite you to join us in thanking God for the incredible gift of His Son. Jesus not only took the punishment for our sin; He also secured the hope of resurrection, eternal life, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Because of Him, pain and death do not have the final word.

Yes, death is not good. But praise God, **death is not over.** That is our hope this Easter. Join me in thanking God for that truth and know that He truly will work out all things for good for those who love Him.

Happy Easter!

Chris D. Croswite

Executive Director

Vincent: Continued from the Front Page

hungry and unsure where your next meal will come from. Being able to help provide a good, hot meal for someone who needed it gave me a sense of purpose again.

One moment that stands out was serving in the kitchen during the Mission's Easter banquet last year. There were so many people there, and you could see the gratitude and happiness on their faces as they received their meals. Being part of that event made me feel incredibly blessed. While working in the kitchen helped me regain a sense of purpose, the spiritual and personal growth I experienced in the program changed me in ways I didn't expect.

I participated in the Genesis Process curriculum, which challenged me to look at my life and the choices I had made. One thing that surprised me was looking back at some of the answers I wrote early in the workbook and comparing them to the answers I wrote later. I could see how much God had changed my heart.

The Mission's classes and Bible studies were meaningful. I even had a community mentor who met with me and walked through the Mission's "Purple Book," which helps people learn more about God and the Bible. Through all of this, my faith began to grow in a way it never had before.

Another blessing during my time in the program was getting connected with a church called Crossroads Church. From the first time I visited, the people treated me like family. They didn't judge me for where I had been or the mistakes I had made. I felt like I belonged as a brother and a friend in Jesus Christ.

I now work at Crossroads Church as the building supervisor. I take care of the grounds and help maintain the church building. The church has also allowed me to live

in a parsonage next to the building, which has been an incredible blessing. For the first time in a long while, I have stability again. I have a job, a place to live, and a supportive church family around me.

Today I'm working hard and saving money. The church even gave me an older SUV, and one of my goals is to get it fully repaired and running well. Once I've saved enough, I hope to move into an apartment or house of my own in the next few months.

But the biggest change in my life isn't just having housing or employment again. The biggest change is my relationship with God. Through my time at the Ogden Rescue Mission, I've come to know Jesus Christ in a real and personal way. I truly believe that God used the Mission to save my life.

I do have several siblings, but unfortunately, we've become estranged over the years. Since my parents have passed away and I never had children, my siblings are the only biological family I have left. I hope that someday I might find a way to reconnect with them, and I would appreciate prayers for that.

At the same time, I'm incredibly grateful for the church family God has given me. The people at Crossroads Church mean so much, and they remind me every day that I'm not alone.

I want to say thank you to everyone who supports the Ogden Rescue Mission. Because of your generosity, people like me have a place to turn when life falls apart. You may never meet many of the people whose lives you help change—but I'm one of them. And I'm truly grateful.

HOW YOUR GIFT HELPS: OUR STATS THROUGH FEBRUARY



Professions of Faith

51



Meals

9,636



Family Food Boxes

29



Nights of Shelter

2,158



Clothing

2,247



Hygiene Items

2,105



Day Service

134



Jobs Obtained

1



Housing Obtained

1



WEB, SOCIAL, & EMAIL

OgdenRescueMission.org

Facebook/OgdenRescue

Instagram@ogden_rescue_mission

Email: info@OgdenRescue.org

SCAN OUR QR CODE TO QUICKLY DONATE TODAY



PHONE, MAIL, & VOLUNTEERS

Main – 801.621.4360

Donor Relations – 801.746.1006

Mail: PO Box 1431 Salt Lake City Utah 84110-1431

Volunteer: Email J.Doud@OgdenRescue.org

Physical Address: 2775 Wall Avenue, Ogden, Utah